


Section : Systèmes de communication School : Communication Systems		 ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE
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Evaluation indicative des enseignements (dès 2015-2016)

Summary of results for the teaching activity

Teaching activity :	TCP/IP networking
Teaching given in :	English
Teacher's name :	Le Boudec Jean-Yves
Academic year :	2018-2019
Period :	Master semester 1 ; Master semester 3 ; Autumn semester
Number of registered students :	105
Number of answers :	36
Teaching activity offered to section(s) :	Communication Systems - master program ; Computer Science ; Electrical and Electronics Engineering ; Cyber security minor ; Communication systems minor
Teaching activity involving many teachers :	No

Overall, I think this course is good.

[Single option]

<i>Possible answers :</i>	<i>Nb. answers :</i>	<i>In % :</i>
Strongly agree	26	72
Agree	9	25
Disagree	1	3
Strongly disagree	0	0
No opinion	0	0

Best course I had at EPFL ! All the topics are really interesting. The lecture is really well taught, the slides are good, there are videos of the course every week and they are available pretty quickly. The homeworks are interesting and do not take too much time. The TA are really nice and know what they are talking about. I would like to congratulate the whole TCP/IP team for the wonderful job they are doing ! Thank you :)

Good course, lots of effort put in from the teaching staff! However the labs take a long time to complete. And, it might just be the subject - TCP/IP - , but I found the computer networks course, during the bsc much more exciting and entertaining : studying many concepts but not very in depth. Looking back to the rake philosophy, I would maybe be even more general so to cover even more topics. For instance not spending 30 min+ on Dijkstra algorithm that we saw in other courses and that is just a tool for TCP/IP, or other topic that are not really interesting, or key. I would prefer it to be even more general. Also I feel the syllabus could be a bit more structured? It feels like we are jumping from one topic to the other. In compnet, the teacher would structure its course around the OSI architecture and present layer by layer. I have no precise idea on how to do it for this course - maybe its already the best structure that one can come up with. But I feel like there is little logic to the sequence of topics! Otherwise great job.

Great class ! Well organized and good content. The quizzes are helpful to understand the theory better. The only thing I could say is that this class should give 6 credits considering the amount of work to provide.

Great idea with the quizzes. Labs are very well balanced. The ability to watch the lectures at home is a feature missing from most of the other courses, I love it here.

Interesting class, the quality of the material is really good, and options with slides, corrected slides and videos. I really like the more interactive part of the class with Speakout, it keeps me engaged with the class, because otherwise the similarities with a bachelor class of mine makes me think of other things. Labs are good, a bit long but definitely a good thing for a deep understanding of the material. I would say the schedule of the lab session friday morning isn't ideal, but the rest is really good !

Interesting course, though sometimes a bit imprecise due to the top-down approach, as the underlying layer has to be overlooked. The labs are mostly ok though very time-consuming as a lot of the underlying software is not well-documented, if at all, and many questions are open to interpretation.

Les vidéos du cours mise en ligne régulièrement sont très appréciées.

Overall, the course is really interesting, lectures are really good, lab material is also great (except for the one with python scripts). The only thing is that I feel that grading is quite unfair

Really good!

Really interesting class. The Labs might be a little too long for some of them.

The course is good but I find it frustrating how much work it requires. We have either a Lab or a quiz, we cannot rest for a moment when the midterms are here or when they are submissions in other courses. The labs are too long but otherwise interesting, although I'd prefer to have more exercises that asked us to reason about "how", instead of "why".

The course is interesting and the Labs are very nice. It's great to have hands-on experience to apply the material seen in class and in previous courses. However, I have some troubles understanding the purpose of the quizzes. They are very frequent, and combined to other courses that have the same practice it quickly gives a huge workload as it is necessary to learn by heart very specific details of the slides. Moreover these details will be in any case tested during the final exam. Also, it is very time consuming (particularly for students with bad memory who are very penalized) compared to the weight it has in the final grade.

The course is interesting but there is a lot of content. Having a quiz and a lab each 2 weeks is a lot of work.

The course is well organized. Lectures are interesting and well prepared. It is very good that lectures are being recorded and uploaded at the same day after lectures. Many figures on the lecture slides are not really representative (when they are drawn by hand slides look a bit messy). TAs are always ready to help and answer our questions. 15 minutes for quiz was not enough at the beginning (first 2 quizzes) and thank you that you have noticed that and extended duration of the quiz to 30 minutes. On the other hand, after quiz, there is not much time left for lab session (extra slot on Tuesday is therefore still useful). However, this course seems to be more than 5 credits course even for students with previous knowledge in networking. A lot of time is required for debugging things especially when there are some bugs in lab that TAs made.

Very good and useful course. Good balance between theory and implementation. Videos are extremely useful, almost necessary, for people who don't have any network theory background. Thank you for taking the time to make and provide them.

Very good class. Teacher is good. Using speakup is a nice initiative to get people engaged in the class. The labs are relevant to subject, challenging (yet never impossible to do in length or difficulty), research exercise are also a plus. The only thing I would want more is to have periodically a sheet of extra exercise that cover the theory. Moreover recording the lectures is always a big plus.

Very good course and teacher!

Why not use moodle instead of slack? I have the feeling that students only check the slack when they are doing the tp, so there is a lot less participation than in a moodle forum when people get email notifications, it is sometimes hard to get an answer to a problem. Also the assistants for the TP look like they don't know what they are talking about, each time we ask a question we are redirected to the assistant who prepared the current TP because they don't know. But of course this responsible assistant is already dealing with other people. Otherwise, the course is great and very clear, I like having the quiz every two weeks, and having the lectures on youtube really helps.

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**IC Evaluation of Computer Science, Communication Systems and Data Science courses
(Master Program)**

TCP/IP networking / Jean-Yves Le Boudec / Autumn 2018

The question N° 1 / Comments : The instructor is :

- Really good lecturer, clear and interesting.
- Charismatic.

The question N° 2 / Comments : The course content is :

- None.

The question N° 3 / Comments : The team of teaching assistants is :

- We asked them about a problem we faced while trying to do a bonus part, even though we knew it was not a good way to do it. The answers we got were that it will not be used in the future assignment, that it was not an interesting example for the bonus and none of those that came to us was able to answer our question.

The question N° 4 / Comments : The supporting materials (for example : notes, slides, web site) are :

- The reference book for the first part of the course (i.e. not congestion control) is not really aligned with what we saw in class in my opinion. The terminology is rather different; I got "baited" and "lost" sometime going back and forth between the two. It's not a big deal though, but maybe having a note about that could be useful? Also, the slack channel is really great! And the lectures recording are well appreciated, thanks!

The question N° 5 / Comments : The organisation of the course (for example : coordination test/exam, contact lecturer/student) is :

- None.

The question N° 6 / Comments : The homework was well designed; it helped me understand the material and progress through the course :

- The exercises are really long. They ask us too much explanation and not enough thinking in my opinion (explaining how instead of why more often would be better).
- Great labs, very interesting! However, I'd like to point out that for lab0, we had some parts that required the content of the second week but the lab was to submit the day before the lecture; which was kind of weird in my opinion. (maybe have 2 more days or something similar would have been fine). I remember panicking like crazy lol.
- Pour certains exercices il est dur d'en comprendre la finalité. Mais les TP restent très intéressants.

The question N° 7 / Comments : The tests were of reasonable scope and difficulty.

- The fact that this course has a lot of content to learn about, "forcing" us to stay up-to-date with the quizzes is a smart idea.
- Un feedback automatique sur les TPs serait vraiment bienvenu.

The question N° 8 / Comments : How many hours per week did you work on this course outside of scheduled lecture, exercises, and practicum hours ?

- Labs are long.

Comments : Do you feel that the number of credits for this course corresponds to the amount of work required ?

- Yes (19x).
- No, it requires more work (4x).

Comments : How much does this course overlap with other courses (interms of material) ? Which course(s)?

- No redundancy (9x).
- With Computer networks (9x).
- Low.
- With Decentralized systems engineering.
- With Mobile networks.

Other comments :

- Very good course.
- Cours excellent et bien organisé, donné par un enseignant pédagogue.
- This is a very well-structured course and the workload is very reasonable.
- Très bon cours.
- My favorite teacher.